

REMARKS

Claims 11 – 19 have been added. Claim 7 has been amended. Claims 1 – 6 and 8 – 10 remain as originally claimed.

The Examiner has objected to a misspelling in claim 7. Claim 7 has been amended to correct the misspelling.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1- 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) being unpatentable over Mumpower et al. (“Expert Judgments of Political Riskiness”) in view of Olonisakin (“Conflict in Africa: The Role of the OAU Subregional Organizations”) and Afghanistan (Afghanistan – Travel Warning). The Examiner admits that Mumpower does not teach a method of determining the rate of change in a state of conflict. Olonisakin teaches a method of determining whether there is a change or escalation in violence or danger. This information is limited to indicating whether or not a change in conflict exists. In contrast, claim 1 recites a method of determining the rate of change that may occur over a period of time. Thus, it may allow a prediction of the intensity of a conflict at a certain period of time. Accordingly, Mumpower operates to anticipate the potential conflict in a country, and not to determine the rate of change in a state of conflict. Because Mumpower does not serve to determine the rate of change in a state of conflict, Mumpower does not teach all of the elements of the present claims.

In addition, there is no motivation of one skilled in the art to combine the cited references. For example, Afghanistan teaches a method of providing a travel warning when a conflict has already occurred. The present invention, on the other hand, predicts how much conflict may arise *before* it actually occurs. Consequently, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine Mumpower, Olonisakin, and Afghanistan.

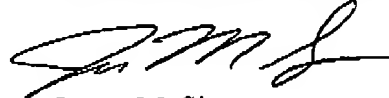
Applicant submits that all rejections presented by the Examiner have been addressed. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1 – 19 is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

No fee is believed to be due for this submission; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0436.

Respectfully submitted,

PEPPER HAMILTON LLP



James M. Singer

Registration No. 45,111

One Mellon Center, 50th Floor
500 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: (412) 454-5000
Fax: (412) 281-0717
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